

Domestic Relations Committee  
Judicial Conference of Indiana

**Minutes**  
February 15, 2002

The Domestic Relations Committee in Indianapolis, Indiana on Friday, February 15, 2002, from 10:30 a.m.- 3:00 p.m. at the Indiana Judicial Center.

1. Members present. Robert R. Aylsworth, David Bonfiglio, Thomas J. Felts, E. Michael Hoff; Keith A. Meier; Robyn L. Moberly; Michael P. Scopelitis; William C. Whitman; and Daniel F. Donahue, Chair.
2. Staff present. Jeffrey Bercovitz provided the committee with staff assistance.
3. Minutes approved. The minutes for the meeting of the committee on January 18, 2002 were approved.
4. Guests present. Carla Mantia, Director, Child Support Bureau, FSSA and Mike Aronson, Staff Attorney, Child Support Bureau, FSSA were also present.
5. Introduction of Carla Mantia. Carla Mantia, Director, Child Support Bureau, FSSA introduced herself to members of the committee. She thanked the committee for agreeing to conduct the four-year review of Indiana's Child Support Guidelines. She reported monies are available until June 30, 2002 and her agency can pay for services after this if begun before June 30.
6. Recent legislation.
  - a. Mr. Bercovitz distributed HB 1335 to the committee members. He explained the Allen County Pilot Mediation Project was modified and the program was made available statewide with the following included: (1) plans for mediation would only be filed with the Judicial Conference of Indiana; (b) total court costs would be \$124.00; (c) there is no sunset provision; (d) the additional \$20.00 court costs will be charged when a petition for legal separation or paternity case is filed; (e) the additional court costs should be charged as soon as the plan is filed with the Judicial Conference of Indiana; (f) the plan for use of these monies must be approved by the majority of judges in the county with domestic relations jurisdiction.
  - b. Mr. Bercovitz also distributed Senate Bills 178 and 252, and House Bills 1077 and 1245 to the committee.
7. Child Support Guideline review. The committee discussed hiring Dr. David Betson, to review the economic basis of the guidelines for the committee at the next meeting. In addition, they agreed he could conduct a review of the costs of raising a child if requested by the committee. They also invited him to consider speaking about the economic basis of the guidelines to judges at the September conference. They agreed to ask Ms. Laura Morgan to review of the child support guidelines in comparison to other states, if needed. They agreed to solicit ideas for changes to the guidelines in accordance with their discussion last month.

8. Next meeting dates. The members of the committee agreed to meet again on Friday, March 15, April 19, May 17, July 19 and August 16, 2002 from 10:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. at the Judicial Center, September 11 from 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 noon, in conjunction with the September Conference in Ft. Wayne, and Friday, October 18, and November 15, 2002 and Friday, January 17, 2003 from 10:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. at the Judicial Center.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey Bercovitz, Director  
Juvenile and Family Law